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Attorney Docket No. 0388-061269

Customer No. 28289  
**10/577787**  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : Not Yet Assigned  
Applicants : **Atsushi SAKAI**  
Filed : Concurrently Herewith  
Title : **PIPELINE CLOSING APPARATUS**  
International Application : No. PCT/JP2004/015823  
International Filing Date : 26 October 2004  
Priority Dates Claimed : 31 October 2003; 12 April 2004  
Customer Number : 28289

**MAIL STOP PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application  
as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.